

Ohio State Beekeepers Association Board Meeting  
March 20, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm by Tim Arheit, President.

In Attendance: Tom Rathburn, Dwight Wells, Dwight Wilson, Joe Kovalski, Marishka Wile, Mike Doseck, Peggy Garnes, Jeff Gabric, Chris Dresel, Tim Arheit, Terry Lieberman-Smith, Annette Birt Clark, Michele Colopy.

Tim asks for a confirmation for new Representatives: Jeff Gabric, Heart of Ohio and Chris Dresel, Ohio Valley. Annette puts forth the motion to confirm both candidates, Marishka seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.

Representatives are still needed for Erie Basin, Miami Valley and Buckeye Hills regions. Tom may have a candidate for Erie Basin. He will speak with her this week. Annette comments that any executive board member would be happy to have a conversation with the prospective candidate as well.

Tim informs group that our IRS letter and application for the affiliate program have been approved. There are many steps to be take for a successful launch of the program. Documents to create, communications to be sent, web site links to create, costs to consider. We will be the 501(c)3 approving agency for any club under our umbrella. We need to be sure things are done correctly. Tim will be sharing all information with executive board for review and follow up with next steps. Largest cost will be insurance.

Mike Dosek has written an article for the newsletter with information to prepare clubs for becoming an affiliate. Terry will share with executive board.

Tim has updated the website links for the Swarm List. Swarm list participants must be OSBA members and their listing is tied to our database. There is a text box for contact information which will be what the public will see. An email and/or snail mail letter will be sent out in the near future to previously listed beekeepers. A short article will be placed in the newsletter.

Michele's records and research show that it costs about \$1200 for participation in EAS. She proposes to support our EAS representative, Peggy Garnes, with \$600.00. This figure should be reviewed annually. Peggy comments that the \$1200 is correct. Terry puts forth a motion to approve \$600 for EAS representative. Joe seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes. Note: Peggy Garnes abstained from vote.

Michele suggests that we may consider setting aside funding for national conference representation. This would be a new line item in the budget. Joe will be investigating and reporting back to board the cost of H.A.S participation. The board will take a vote at the next scheduled meeting.

Michele has included sales figures from the OSBA table at Tri-County in the updated financial statement. Over \$1000 in sales. Hash mark count for “table visitors” was 35, but many more people stopped by the table. We will use a “people count” at all OSBA tables to get a better grasp of how many people we are able to talk to and to better understand and satisfy staffing needs

We now have debit card that will be kept by the treasurer. Some purchases for mailing and supplies have exceeded \$500 and came out of a board members pocket. For larger purchases especially, we will attempt to use online or account purchases with the debit card. Tim reminded all that as a non-profit the club is eligible to make most purchases tax free. There is documentation needed to present to a vendor. Tim has this information for anyone who may be making a purchase on the club’s behalf and will be reimbursed for the purchase.

Terry informs us about new beekeeper outreach. Last year we sent out 20 packets to clubs giving classes, this year 25. Last year a total of 938 pieces requested, this year 1265. Last year we received 382 names for our free trial year. So far, we have had 77 join in 2016 as paying members, 1 of which is a lifetime membership. As a cost saving measure, we are considering printing the Best Management Practices either as a trifold brochure which could be used at additional events.

Terry comments on the 4-H Partnership. The winners have been announced and some pictures of directors with winners have been sent to Terry. David Crawford was kind enough to create a generic press release. This will be used for local papers or other publications for promote OSBA, the local association and 4-H.

Tim comments that our 4-H Partnership Program needs some adjustment. Timing is a challenge as the January announcement is too short of a timeline. Many clubs are not active in January. Clubs did not receive notification about the program in time to get their participants involved. We need to advertise the 4-H program in August when the clubs are still active. We need to commit now to the funds for 2017 so we can get the word out starting in August. Annette puts forth a motion to approve funds for the 4-H partnership. Peggy seconds. Tim asks if the fund requirement should remain the same. A bit of banter about costs and it becomes clear that the current level of funds is adequate for 2017. All in favor. Motion carries.

Michele speaks on non-profit considerations regarding funding and recusal. We need to follow a standard of excellence and fairness and avoid any conflicts of interest. Any board member must not financially benefit from their position with OSBA. They must be charged full price as anyone else would for any services or products from OSBA. We do not want any bad public relations when we are moving forward to grow the affiliate program. All board member actions need to be above board, transparent and ethical. Michele comments that if she is asked to speak on behalf of Pollinator Stewardship at the OSBA conference that she will not accept a speaking fee. Joe asks Terry to send a bill for the Buckeye Queen Producers ad.

Terry informs all that there is a meeting scheduled with Rural King. They will now be carrying beekeeping supplies and have opened the door to a conversation with OSBA to supply customers with educational information and marketing from OSBA. They are selling bee equipment and offering no support.

Joe comments on the quality of equipment that may be offered. The concern is that new beekeepers should start with and use standard size equipment. Many imported knock offs will likely lead to unnecessary challenges for the beekeeper if purchasing additional equipment.

Michele comments that they may be in it for a quick buck without giving education to their customers. This is where OSBA can partner to help their customers get linked into a local club, understand laws and importance of and use of best management practices. We do not need irresponsible beekeepers fanning a fire for unreasonable and unnecessary nuisance laws.

Terry comments that we want to get ahead of this new retail situation and this is a good start.

Terry will be sending a new PowerPoint presentation to all board members tomorrow. This is based on a presentation from the fall conference. It can be used as a projection or in print. It supplies talking points around all the activities of the OSBA including the Capital hive, Ohio State pavilion and social media. We just hit a new record of 1400 visits in a day to our Facebook page. This presentation is appropriate for a community group and for all club meetings. Board members do not need to speak off the cuff, they can use this valuable tool.

Michele confirms that things are confirmed for three dates to celebrate Ohio Pollinator Week. The governor's office is being solicited to create a resolution for the celebration. June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. June 25<sup>th</sup> at Franklin Park Conservancy. June 26<sup>th</sup> at the Cincinnati Zoo. Scotts is sponsoring the events. Michele is the contact person. Please, do not contact these venues directly regarding the event. Contact Michele directly. More information will be forthcoming.

The Ohio Save the Honey Bee license plate is an ongoing source of revenue for the club. Each time the plate is renewed the club receives an additional \$15. Please, put one on your vehicle and promote the license plate at your local club meetings.

Peggy puts forth a motion to adjourn the meeting. Michele seconds. All in favor. Motion carries. Meeting is adjourned at 8:08pm.

Thank you all for your attendance.